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## (54) TOY BOUNCING APPARATUS

(71) I, GEOFFREY DANIEL WHEELER a British Subject of Plot 1, Redhouse Farm, Kington, Flyford Flavel, Near Worcester in the County of Worcester declare the invention for which I pray that a Patent may be granted to me, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

10 This invention relates to a toy bouncing apparatus and has as its object the provision of such an apparatus in a convenient form.

15 In accordance with the present invention there is provided a toy comprising a rigid board having resilient load supporting means retained only in the region of the periphery of the board in engagement with one face thereof, the part or parts of said resilient means remote from said board being arranged, in use, to engage a support surface, the resilient means being such as resiliently to resist the sudden load of a person jumping on the board so that the toy can function in the manner of a trampoline.

25 Conveniently, said support surface may be a further board, said resilient means being retained in engagement with both of said boards. Alternatively, said support surface may be the ground.

30 Preferably, said resilient means may be formed by a plurality of compression springs. Alternatively, said resilient means may be formed by an inflatable extensible bag.

The invention will now be more particularly described with reference to the accompanying drawings wherein:

40 Figure 1 is a side view of one embodiment of a toy constructed in accordance with the present invention and, Figure 2 is a perspective view of the embodiment illustrated in Figure 1.

45 Referring to the drawings, the toy shown

[Price 25p]

therein comprises a single rigid board 10 which is generally square when viewed in plan but the board 10 may be of any other convenient shape. The board 10 may be formed of any convenient rigid material such as wood, metal, or strong synthetic resin material. The toy further comprises four spiral compression springs 11 each of which is secured at its smaller diameter end to the board 10 adjacent a corner thereof. To secure the compression springs 11 to the board 10 the smaller diameter end of each compression spring is sandwiched between a washer 12 and the board 10, the necessary pressure between the washer and the board being exerted by screw threading a wing nut 13 on to a screw threaded-bolt 14. The larger diameter end of each compression spring 11 carries an annular synthetic resin cap 15.

50 In use, the annular caps 15 are positioned in engagement with the ground or any other convenient flat surface so that a person may bounce up and down on the board 10, such a bouncing motion being amplified by the toy in a manner similar to that of a trampoline.

55 In an alternative embodiment, the toy comprises two rigid boards of generally circular shape and four compression springs. The four springs are equi-angularly spaced adjacent the peripheries of the boards with the opposite ends of each spring secured to the boards. The springs thus tend to bias the two boards into parallel spaced apart relationship. Preferably, an endless band of flexible pervious material is secured to the peripheral edges of both boards and the outer faces of the two boards are desirably of a non-slip nature. If desired, the latter may be achieved by securing ribbed rubber pads to the outer faces of the board.

60 It will be understood that the boards are precluded from being biased apart by more than a predetermined distance 90

by the springs, however, the aforesaid endless band may limit the distance by which the two boards can be spaced from one another and in this case the springs will be retained at all times in at least a partially compressed state.

In yet a further alternative embodiment the springs of the previous embodiment may be replaced by an inflatable extensible bag having a valve adapted to be connected when necessary to any convenient means such as a foot pump for inflating the bag. The bag, when inflated, has two opposed substantially flat faces which engage the two boards respectively. Each of said opposite faces have an integrally formed generally L-shaped rim extending from the peripheral edge of said faces, said rim being deformable to accept and retain, in use, the boards in engagement with opposite faces of the bag.

WHAT I CLAIM IS:—

1. A toy comprising a rigid board having resilient load supporting means retained only in the region of the periphery of the board in engagement with one face thereof, the part or parts of said resilient means remote from said board being arranged, in use, to engage a support surface, the resilient means being such as resiliently to resist the sudden load of a person jump-

ing on the board so that the toy can function in the manner of a trampoline.

2. A toy as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said resilient means comprises a plurality of compression springs.

3. A toy as claimed in Claim 2 wherein said springs are spirally wound.

4. A toy as claimed in Claim 3 wherein the smaller diameter ends of said springs are retained in engagement with said one face of said board and the larger diameter ends of said springs carry caps.

5. A toy as claimed in Claim 4 wherein said caps are formed of synthetic resin material.

6. A toy as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2 wherein said resilient means interconnect said rigid board and a further rigid board.

7. A toy as claimed in Claim 6 when dependent only upon Claim 1 wherein said resilient means is in the form of an inflatable extensible bag.

8. A toy substantially as herein described with reference to and as shown in the accompanying drawing.

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